# ARTICLES EXHIBITED IN PARLIAMENT AGAINST WILLIAM ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY,

Feb. 25. 1640.

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Printed in the yeare 1640

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II

# Articles of the Commons assembled in PARLIAMENT, AGAINST WILLIAM LAWD, Archbishop of *Canterbury*, in maintenance of their Accusation, whereby he stands charged with High Treason, *Febr.* 25. 1640.

I

THat hee, the said *William Laud*, Archbishop of *Canterbury*, traiterously labored to subvert the fundamentall Lawes and Government of the Kingdome by giving his Majestie advice, privately, and at Counsell Table, High Commission, and in other places, that hee would have governed by Civill Lawes, and further said, hee would make the proudest Subject in the Kingdome to give way unto him; and being told it was against Law, he said he would make it Law, and that the King might at his owne pleasure take away without Law, and make it warrantable by Gods Law.

II.

His countenancing of bookes, and their Authors, for the maintenance of his unlimited and absolute power, whereby the power of Parliament is denied, and the Bishops power of Prelacie set up.

III.

That he traiterously went about to interrupt the Judges by his threatnings, and other meanes, to constraine them to give false judgement in the case of Shipmony, as will appeare both by writings under his hand, and by testimony of divers persons of good worth and quality.

IV.

That he hath taken bribes, and sold justice in the High Commission as Archbishop, and hath not onely corrupted the Judges there, but also sold Judicious places to bee corrupted.

V.

That hee hath endeavoured the incroachment of Jurisdiction and Institution of Canons, which are not onely unlawfull, but prejudiciall to the subject. And that he hath exercised his authority very cruelly, both as a Counsellour, Commissioner, and a Judge.

VI.

That hee hath traiterously assumed a capital power over his Majesties subjects, denying his power of Prelacie as from the King.

VII. That

## VII.

That by falſe enormious Doctrines and other ſyniſter wayes and meanes Hee went about to ſubvert the Religion eſtabliſhed in this Kingdome, and to ſet up Papiſtrie and ſuperſtition in the Church.

## VIII.

That by undue meanes and practice hee hath gotten into his hand the power of nominating of Miniſters to Spirituall promotion, and hath preferred none but ſcandalous Miniſters thereunto, and that hee preferred corrupt Chaplains to His Majeſty.

IX.

That his owne Ministers, as *Haywood*, *Laifield* and others, are notoriously disaffected to Religion.

X.

That he hath Trayterously endeavoured to reconcile us to the Church of Rome, and to that end hath employed a *Jesuite* and a *Papist-Priest*, and hath wrought with the Popes Agents in severall points.

XI.

That to ſuppreſſe preaching, Hee hath ſuſpended divers good men, and uſed unlawfull meanes by Letters, and otherwiſe to ſeverall Biſhops, to ſuppreſſe them.

XII.

That he hath Traytorouſly endeavoured to ſuppreſſe the *French* Religion, which is the ſame wee are off, and the *Dutch* Church, and to ſet diviſion betweene them and us.

XIII.

That he hath Trayterously endeavoured to set Division betweene the King and his Subjects, and hath gone about to bring in Innovations into the Church: And hath induced the King to Warre with the *Scots*, and many upon their death Bedds, to give towards the maintenance of the Warre: And hath causèd the Clergie to give freely towards the same, and hath brought in many Superstitions and Innovations into the Church of *Scotland*: And that hee procured the King to breake the pacification, thereby to cause a bloody Warre between the Kingdomes.

XIIII.

## XIII.

That to preserve Himselfe from being questioned, for these and other his Trayterous designes, from the First of his Majesties Raigne untill now, Hee laboured to subvert the Rights of Parliaments; by all which Words, Councells, and Actions he hath Trayterously laboured to Alienate the hearts of the Kings leige people from his Majesty, to set a Division betweene them; and to ruine and destroy His Majesties Kingdomes.

For which they impeach him of High Treason against our Soveraigne Lord the King, his Crowne and Dignity.

And the said Commons, by protestation saving to themselves the liberty of exhibiting at any time hereafter, any other Accusation or Impeachment against the said

William Laud, Arch-Biſhop of *Canterbury*.

And alſo, to the replying of the Anſwers that Hee, the ſaid Arch-Biſhop ſhall make unto the ſaid Articles, or any of them.

And of offering proofe alſo of the Premiſſes, or any of them, or any other Impeachment or Accuſation, that ſhall bee exhibited by them, as the courſe of Parliaments requite.

Doe Pray;

*That he, the ſaid* William Laud, *Arch-Biſhop of* Canterbury, *may be put ſpeedily to anſwer for all, and every of the* Premiſſes: *That ſuch Proceedings, Examinations, Tryalls,*

*Tryalls, and Judgements, may be upon every of them, had and used, as is agreeable to* Law *and* Justice.

FINIS.